

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 00972 201842Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 NEAE-00

/093 W

----- 049314

P R 201734Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7763

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUGDCASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0972

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 00972 201842Z

1. SUMMARY: OSMAN STATES MOROCCO IN SAHARA TO STAY, WILL

REPORTEDLY VISIT MOSCOW. FONMIN LARAKI SEES SAHARA QUESTION AS THREAT TO OAU SOLIDARITY, INDICATES PESSIMISM ON RIAD MEDIATION EFFORT. SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCES POINT OUT QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY WILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED AFTER FINAL SPANISH DEPARTURE, CLAIM SPAIN MAY REPLACE USSR AND ALGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN MOROCCO. END SUMMARY

2. GOM LINE: TODAY'S PUBLIC RESTATEMENT OF GOM FIRMNESS WAS DECLARATION BY PRIMIN OSMAN IN PRESS CONFERENCE ENDING FIVE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT IN TOKYO THAT "WE ARE ESTABLISHING OURSELVES IN THE SAHARA, WE ARE THERE, AND THERE WE WILL REMAIN." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, OSMAN REITERATED MOROCCO WAS NOT AGAINST PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND HAD PROCEEDED WITH A CONSULTATION OF SAHARAN POPULATION "EVEN THOUGH NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD SEEMS TO WANT TO DO THE SAME" IN THEIR OWN CASE. POPULATION HAD EXPRESSED ITS APPROVAL OF MADRID ACCORD THROUGH JEMAA. POLISARIO, SAID OSMAN, ONLY A COVER FOR (ALGERIAN) MANEUVERS. CLAIMED THAT A POLISARIO CONGRESS ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO HAD ATTRACTED ONLY 400 OR 500 PERSONS AND THAT IF MEMBERSHIP MORE NUMEROUS, FRONT WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED TO SHOW IT OFF.

3. SAHARA AND OAU: FONMIN LARAKI, DISCUSSING SAHARA IN TERMS OF UPCOMING OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, TOLD AMB FEB 19 HE DOUBTED POLISARIO WOULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BUT STATED MOROCCO "AND OTHERS" WOULD WALK OUT IF RECOGNITION EXTENDED. PROPHESED THAT COULD SPELL END OF OAU.

4. OSMAN TO MOSCOW: SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN REPORTED FEB 20 (AFP ITEM) THAT OSMAN WILL MAKE 24 HOUR PRIVATE VISIT TO MOSCOW ON RETURN FROM TOKYO. ITEM SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY MEET WITH SOVIET LEADERS TO DISCUSS SAHARA AND PROJECTED COOPERATION IN EXPLOITATION OF MESKALA PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS. ACCORDING TO REPORT, "ARAB" SOURCES IN MOSCOW BELIEVE THAT OFFICIAL VISIT AT INVITATION OF SOVIETS IN WORKS FOR NEAR FUTURE.

5. WITH REGARD MESKALA DEPOSITS, SPANISH EMBASSY ECON OFFICER (PROTECT SOURCE) TOLD EMBOFF AT FEB 19 DINNER THAT MADRID AND RABAT CONDUCTING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 00972 201842Z

SERIOUS EXCHANGES ON POSSIBLE DEAL WHEREBY SPAIN WOULD REPLACE SOVIETS AS PARTNER IN THE PROJECT. ALSO CLAIMED THAT NADOR STEEL MILL PROJECT, INVOLVING ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN COOPERATION, MIGHT LIKewise BE TAKEN OVER BY SPANIARDS. SAID THAT SPAIN EAGER FORGE SOLID LINKS WITH MOROCCO TO FORESTALL LATER "GREEN MARCH" ON CEUTA AND MELILLA.

6. DIPLOMATIC. FONMIN LARAKI ADDRESSED MESSAGE TO ARAB

LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD FEB 18 WISHING HIM WELL IN HIS EFFORTS BUT PUBLICLY INDICATING GOM'S LACK OF OPTIMISM HE WOULD SUCCEED IN DEFUSING SAHARA TENSIONS. LARAKI SAID THAT CURRENT CRISIS STEMS FROM ALGERIAN PROVOCATIONS AND REPEATED AGGRESSIONS AGAINST MOROCCAN TERRITORY AND ITS MEDDLING IN MOROCCAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. PROFESSED REGRET THAT MOROCCAN DEMARCHES HAD MET ONLY ALGERIAN STUBBORNNESS, DISTORTIONS AND REFUSAL TO RESPECT COMMITMENTS. SAID RIAD SHOULD FOCUS ON ELIMINATING TENSION CAUSED BY ALGERIAN TROOP CONCENTRATIONS ON MOROCCAN FRONTIER AS WELL AS BY CONTINUING PROVOCATION BY ALGERIAN ARMY.

7. SPANISH PHASE-OUT: SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS FEB 19 REMINDED WORLD THAT TRANSFER OF POWERS IN SAHARA WILL BE COMPLETED SOON. SPANISH CHARGE PRIVATELY NOTED SAME NIGHT THAT ONLY "ADMINISTRATIVE TURNOVER" IS INVOLVED AND THAT QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY AS SUCH WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNRESOLVED LEGAL ISSUE. MEANWHILE, THERE IS SOME LOCAL SPECULATION THAT END OF SPANISH ROLE IN SAHARA WILL BE OCCASION OF MAJOR ALGERIAN/ POLISARIO MILITARY ACTIVITY OR SYMBOLIC ACT SUCH AS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. SPANIARD SAID THAT NO MATTER WHAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF SPANISH SOLDIERS GOING BACK, EVEN AS "BLUE HELMETS."

8. OPPOSITION: RYDBEK MISSION DREW ISTIQLAL FIRE FEB 20. L'OPINION APPALLED BY RYDBECK'S "LACK OF OBJECTIVITY" IN HIS REPORTED COMMENTS TO PRESS IN NEW YORK. NOTED SWEDEN HAD TAKEN POSITION UNFAVORABLE TO MOROCCO THROUGHOUT UN PORTION OF DISPUTE. SAID IT OBLIGED QUESTION RYDBECK'S GOOD FAITH AND WALDHEIM JUDGMENT IN CHOOSING HIM TO STUDY SITUATION. USFP PARTY ALSO DOING ITS SHARE WITH SEC GEN BOUABID REHASH OF GOM LINE IN LE MONDE INTERVIEW FEB 19 IN PARIS. USFP DAILY AL MUHARRIR CLAIMED FEB 20 THAT ALGERIANS USING POLISARIO TO BAIT MOROCCANS INTO ATTACK WHICH WOULD PROVIDE PRETEXT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 RABAT 00972 201842Z

FOR INVASION OF MOROCCO IN NORTH AND EAST BY ALGERIAN ARMY.

9. BATTLEFIELD PROPAGANDA. GOM MEANWHILE HAS CONTINUED ITS POLICY OF REFUSING TO CONFIRM, DENY OR EVEN PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE POLISARIO'S BARRAGE OF VICTORY COMMUNIQUE'S ISSUED IN ALGIERS. DIFFICULT FOR US TO TELL EXACTLY WHERE TRUTH LIES CONCERNING MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH, BUT POLISARIO CLAIMS, DOUBTLESSLY AIMED AT UNSOPHISTICATED RURAL POPULATION, CLEARLY OUTRAGEOUS. CLAIMS, FOR EXAMPLE, OF PLANES SHOT DOWN AND OF 286 MOROCCANS KILLED JANUARY 16-31 GROSSLY INFLATED. POLISARIO CREDIBILITY ON OTHER POINTS, SUCH AS DATES AND LOCATIONS, ALSO MINIMAL, IN OUR VIEW.

10. COMMENT: MOSCOW OF COURSE IS REGULAR STOPPING POINT ON TOKYO ROUTE. WHILE OSMAN MAY BE MERELY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF

GEOGRAPHY TO STATE MOROCCAN SAHARAN CASE PERSONALLY TO SOVIETS, IT NEVERTHELESS COMES AT CRUCIAL TIME.

11. IF SPANISH ECONOMIC OFFICERS'S STATEMENTS ON MESKALA AND NADOR PROJECTS ARE TRUE, THIS COULD REPRESENT A MAJOR CHANGE IN GOM'S VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND OF ITS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ALGERIANS, NOT TO MENTION A SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION IN SPAIN'S POLICY TOWARD MAGHREB.  
NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976RABAT00972  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760064-0612  
**From:** RABAT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760230/aaaaazna.tel  
**Line Count:** 178  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAHARA ROUNDUP CONFIDENTIAL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS, AG, AL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006